

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A mail processing system, comprising:

| a plurality of sensors ~~coupled to the mail processing system~~ for collecting system data;

| a plurality of computer input means, ~~said computer input means capable of receiving input information;~~

| a processor system ~~communicatively coupled to the mail processing system,~~
the processor system receiving said system data and generating feedback signals;
and

| a communication system ~~coupled to said processor system~~ for communicating said feedback signals to at least one of a local user ~~or~~ and a remote user.

| 2. (currently amended) The apparatus mail processing system of claim 1 wherein said processor system further comprises:

a database for storing predetermined sets of system data; and

a comparator for comparing the system data received from said sensors with the predetermined sets of system data to generate feedback signals.

3. (currently amended) The mail processing system apparatus of claim 1, wherein said communication system is a wireline communication system.

4. (currently amended) The mail processing system apparatus of claim 1, wherein said communication system is a wireless communication system.

5. (currently amended) The mail processing system apparatus of claim 2, wherein said system data ~~comprising are selected from the group consisting of~~ preventative maintenance schedules, and performance statistics.

6. (currently amended) The mail processing system apparatus of claim 2, wherein the system data stored in said processor system is variable.

7. (currently amended) The mail processing system apparatus of claim 2, wherein said feedback signals include improvement recommendations.

8. (currently amended) A mail processing system, comprising:

a plurality of sensors for measuring ~~object data and system data~~;

a computer system ~~communicatively coupled to said mail processing system,~~
~~the computer system receiving said object data and said system data,~~ said computer system further comprising:

a database system for storing predetermined sets of ~~object data and system data, respectively~~;

a comparator for comparing the measured ~~object data and system data~~ with predetermined sets of ~~object data and system data, respectively~~, and proactively generating feedback signals ~~in the event of a mismatch in the comparison step~~; and

a communication system coupled to said computer system for communicating the feedback signals to at least one of a remote user ~~or~~ and a local user.

9. (currently amended) The mail processing system apparatus of claim 8, wherein said communication system is a wireline communication system.

10. (currently amended) The mail processing system apparatus of claim 8, wherein said communication system is a wireless communication system.

11. (currently amended) The mail processing system apparatus of claim 8, wherein said ~~system data comprises~~ are selected from the group consisting of data related to preventative maintenance schedules; and performance statistics.

12. (currently amended) The mail processing system apparatus of claim 8, wherein said ~~object data~~ are selected from the group consisting of ~~comprises~~ data related to business rules, postal rates, and customer profiles.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The mail processing system apparatus of claim 8, wherein said feedback signals include improvement recommendations.

15. (currently amended) The mail processing system apparatus of claim 8, wherein said feedback signals include cost savings information.

16. (currently amended) A method of ~~proactively~~ performing mail processing functions in a mail processing system, the method comprising:

monitoring ~~at least one~~ a parameter related to said mail processing system;
receiving the monitored parameter by a computer system;
comparing the monitored parameter with a ~~reference~~ predetermined value to determine a comparision result ~~mismatch in said comparison step~~;

triggering an output signal in the event of a mismatch if the comparison result indicates a predetermined difference; and

communicating said output signal to at least one of a local user ~~or~~ and a remote user.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein:

~~the reference~~ predetermined value is stored in a database system.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said database system is located within said computer system.

19. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said database system is located remote from said computer system.

20. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said communication step is performed using a wireline communication system.

21. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said communication step is performed using a wireless communication system.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, ~~further comprises:~~

~~monitoring at least one parameter~~ wherein said parameter is related to mail objects processed by said mail processing system; ~~and,~~

~~monitoring at least one parameter related to said mail processing system.~~

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the parameters related to mail processing system comprises is selected from the group consisting of preventative maintenance schedules, and performance statistics.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the parameters is selected from the group consisting of ~~related to mail objects comprise~~ business rules, postal rates, and customer profiles.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said ~~reference~~ predetermined values is selected from the group consisting of ~~stored in said database comprise~~ predetermined mail processing system values and predetermined mail object values, ~~respectively~~.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, further comprises:
varying said ~~reference~~ predetermined ~~values stored in said database system~~.

27. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said feedback signals include improvement recommendations.

28. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said feedback signals include cost savings information.